

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follows.

1. (original) A reducing mill including a plurality of stands disposed along a rolling direction line, wherein a pipe or tube is rolled through said plurality of stands along said rolling direction line,

said stands each include n rolls, wherein n is equal to or greater than 3,
[[$n \geq 3$]] disposed around said rolling direction line,

said n rolls are disposed shifted by $180^\circ/n$ around said rolling direction line from n rolls included in a preceding stand,

[[Each]] each of said n rolls included in each of said plurality of stands excluding a last stand has a groove having an arch shape in cross section,

[[the]] a bottom of said groove having a circular arc shape having a first radius around said rolling direction line in cross section,

[[the]] a distance between [[the]] a surface of a roll flange portion positioned between the bottom and [[the]] an edge of said groove and said rolling direction line is longer than said first radius, and

[[the]] a distance between the edge of said groove and said rolling direction line is longer than the first radius in the groove of a roll included in said preceding stand.

2. (original) The reducing mill according to claim 1, wherein said roll flange portion has an arch shape in cross section.

3. (original) The reducing mill according to claim 2, wherein in cross section of said groove, a tangent on an end of said bottom matches a tangent on an end of said roll flange portion on the side of said bottom.

4. (original) The reducing mill according to claim 3, wherein said roll flange portion has a circular arc shape having a second radius larger than said first radius in cross section.

5. (original) The reducing mill according to claim 1, wherein said roll flange portion has a straight shape in cross section.

6. (previously presented) The reducing mill according to claim 1, wherein n equals 3 and the circular arc of said bottom has a central angle of at least 50° .

7. (previously presented) The reducing mill according to claim 1, wherein n equals 4, and the circular arc of said bottom has a central angle of at least 36° .

8-14. canceled